

# Mandatory Reporter Training in Iowa Position Paper

Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (IAPSAC)

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# IAPSAC Initial Concerns

- The quality of the available trainings is not adequate.
- The content of available trainings often is not current.
- The mandatory reporter training (MRT) approval process does not ask for submission of actual curriculum content.
- Mandatory reporters (MRs) are not retaining the material presented in trainings.
- MRs may not be receiving sufficient training about how to actually make a report to DHS.
- MRs are not receiving updates on legislative or code changes regarding child maltreatment and mandatory reporting.

# IAPSAC Positions

- Iowa should have only one high-quality curriculum prepared by experts in the field of child abuse for all mandatory reporter training.
- Mandatory reporters should be provided with legislative and other updates as they become available.
- The curriculum should have a method of measuring a MR's knowledge to ensure knowledge is retained and the training is effective.
- Mandatory reporter training should be free to all of Iowa's mandatory reporters.

# IAPSAC Conclusion

- If Iowa had one Mandatory Reporter Curriculum for all MRs, this could ensure that the program content is standardized to a high quality and otherwise appropriate level.
- All updates in legislation, Iowa Code or other changes could be posted online in a timely manner.
- An improved training design would include assessing the knowledge of the MR.
- Once established, an online course could be free and readily accessible to all MRs.